

Application no. 09/982,930
Amendment dated September 3, 2004
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has rejected claims 12 to 20 as being unpatentable for obviousness and as not complying with 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over US Patent No. 4,616,891 to Jantzen ("Jantzen") in view of US Patent No. 4,259,755 to Hollander ("Hollander") and US Patent No. 5,458,409 to Sheng ("Sheng").

Claim 12 is now directed at a **hand-portable** container unit, comprising a **hand-portable** housing having opposing side walls, and a plurality of bins mounted between the side walls for rotation between closed and open positions, such that in the closed position, outer faces of the bins are generally coplanar, and in the open position, the outer faces each angle outwardly from the housing, thereby providing access into the bins, the bins being connected together for movement in unison, the outer faces occupying substantially all of a front portion of the housing, the housing further comprising connection means configured to engage connection means of a housing of another container unit.

Jantzen describes a storage cabinet having multiple storage compartments which all move together in unison if one of the compartments is opened or closed.

Hollander discloses the subject matter of storage bins being connected together for movement in unison to form a support for a bed. However, Hollander is directed at an article of modular furniture and not towards multiple compartment storage bins.

Sheng is directed at a container having multiple moving drawers. The drawers are all interconnected so that the opening of one drawer causes the other drawers to open and similarly with the closing of one of the drawers.

Applicant respectfully believes that Applicant's invention is patentable over Jantzen in view of both Hollander and Sheng. Applicant respectfully believes that since Jantzen is directed at a stand alone storage cabinet, one skilled in the art would not contemplate including engaging means on the sides of Jantzen, as taught by Hollander, since each cabinet could be individually placed side by side without connecting means. There is no reason to connect multiple storage cabinets together since each are stand-alone products unlike Applicant's invention which allows for easier transportation and shipping of the hand-portable container units.

Applicant respectfully submits that Sheng is quiet about the subject matter of clips for connecting multiple storage compartments together.

Furthermore, Applicant has amended claim 12 to include the word "hand-" before the word portable in the preamble and to include the term "hand-portable" before the word housing in the

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first line of Claim 12 to further differentiate Applicant's invention over the cited art. Each of the storage compartments disclosed in the cited art are larger sized and awkward to carry with simply one hand or to carry multiple container units at a time. Applicant's container unit provides this advantage in that it is hand-portable and lightweight so that they may be easily transported by an individual user.

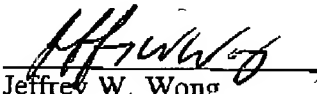
The Examiner has rejected claim 21 as being unpatentable for obviousness and as not complying with 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over US Patent No. 4,616,891 to Jantzen ("Jantzen") in view of US Patent No. 5,803,254 to Vasudeva ("Vasudeva").

In view of Applicant's arguments above, Applicant respectfully believes that neither Jantzen nor Vasudeva disclose connection means configured to engage connection means of a housing of another container unit.

Retraction of Examiner's rejection of claims 12 to 21 is respectfully requested.

We look forward to further communication on this application.

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